

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

LD 42

Resolve, to Improve the Quality of Long-term Care Services

**DIED ON
ADJOURNMENT**

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
H-1089

LD 42 contains the recommendations of the Commission to Examine Rate Setting and the Financing of Maine's Long-term Care Facilities. It proposed to require the Department of Human Services to undertake pilot projects on long-term care reimbursement that are based on performance criteria, to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services on potential changes in the Medicaid principles of reimbursement for nursing facilities, to present a proposal to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services on minimum staffing requirements, to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services on a plan for paperwork reduction, to improve the provision of public information on long-term care and to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services on reducing or removing regulatory barriers to high-quality care. The bill proposed to require the Bureau of Insurance to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services on long-term care insurance and tax credits to encourage the purchase of long-term care insurance. The bill proposed to require the Commissioner of Human Services to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services on changes in the delivery of long-term care services.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1089) proposed to replace the bill with a resolve. The amendment proposed to appropriate \$13,045,463 to improve the quality of long-term care services. It contains the following provisions.

1. The amendment proposed to appropriate funds for home-based and community-based services for elderly adults and persons with disabilities on waiting lists for long-term care services. It proposed to provide funding to increase wages to direct-care workers by \$1 per hour. It proposed to include funding for increased cost of home care programs due to changes in the cost-sharing formula. It proposed to appropriate \$4,000,000 for these purposes.
2. The amendment proposed to direct the Department of Human Services, Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, the Department of Public Safety and the Maine State Housing Authority to work with providers of long-term care services and residential options to develop new services and options. It proposed to appropriate \$4,600,000 for this purpose.
3. The amendment proposed to direct the Department of Human Services to amend its rules regarding Medicaid and home care programs to ensure flexibility and continuity of care. It proposed to appropriate \$173,000 for this purpose.
4. The amendment proposed to direct the Department of Human Services to amend its rules regarding eligibility for long-term care services to provide for continuing eligibility for consumers of long-term care services who have chronic conditions that change on a cyclical basis. It proposed to appropriate \$731,000 for this purpose.

5. The amendment proposed to direct the Department of Human Services and the State Board of Nursing to work with consumers, providers and interested parties to adopt or amend rules to address labor shortage issues and create career ladders.
6. The amendment proposed to direct the Department of Human Services to amend its rules regarding appeal rights in the department's home care programs. It proposed to appropriate \$45,000 for this purpose.
7. The amendment proposed to direct the Department of Human Services to participate in best practices forums regarding long-term care services.
8. The amendment proposed to direct the Department of Human Services to develop and adopt rules to require the use of standardized contracts for long-term care services.
9. The amendment proposed to direct the Department of Human Services and the Department of Public Safety to amend their rules regarding licensing for long-term care services to provide for default licensing for new applicants under certain conditions.
10. The amendment proposed to direct the Department of Human Services, the Department of Public Safety and municipal fire officials to work together to devise ways to expand delegation of the National Fire Protection Association Life Safety Code inspections.
11. The amendment proposed to direct the Department of Human Services to amend the principles of reimbursement for nursing facilities to ensure that reimbursement reflects the current cost of providing services in an efficient manner. It proposed to appropriate \$2,500,000 for this purpose.
12. The amendment proposed to direct the Department of Human Services, the Maine State Retirement System and the State Employee Health Program to work together to study the provision of group long-term care insurance.
13. The amendment proposed to direct the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Elder and Adult Services and the Bureau of Health to work together on a public awareness campaign on the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and long-term care insurance.
14. The amendment proposed to require the Department of Human Services to adopt rules increasing the minimum staffing ratios in long-term care. It proposed to define direct care and direct-care providers. It proposed to require pilot projects on mealtime ratios and a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters by January 1, 2001. It proposed to appropriate \$2,500,000 for this purpose.
15. The amendment proposed to require the Department of Human Services to review its rules and, to the extent consistent with federal law and regulations, to amend the rules regarding duration of licenses for providers of long-term care services and surveys for those providers.
16. The amendment proposed to direct the Department of Human Services to review its rules regarding medical eligibility for reimbursement for services under the Medicaid program for long-term care. The amended rule must be flexible, objective, provide standards for the nurse assessor and consider input from the consumer's family and physician. It proposed to appropriate \$600,000 for this purpose.

17. The amendment proposed to require the Department of Human Services, considering input from the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services and its providers, to undertake aging in place pilot projects.
18. The amendment proposed to require the Department of Human Services, considering input from the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services and its providers, to undertake pilot projects that provide vouchers or flexible funding for long-term care services. It proposed to appropriate \$50,000 for this purpose.
19. The amendment proposed to require the Department of Human Services to review its rules on reimbursement for long-term care services and report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters by January 1, 2001 its recommendations for including in the reimbursement formulas a factor for acuity of consumer condition and level of need for services.
20. The amendment proposed to establish the Long-term Care Implementation Committee to monitor the progress of state departments and offices in implementing the legislation.

The total cost of these provisions would be \$15,224,000 in General Fund money.

21. The amendment proposed to add an appropriation section, allocation section and fiscal note to the bill.

See Public Law 1999, chapter 731, Part BBBB.

LD 114 An Act Regarding Medicaid Managed Care Ombudsman Services PUBLIC 681

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-978
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LD 114 proposed to implement the recommendations of the Task Force to Study the Need for an Ombudsman for the Department of Human Services and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services relating to the Department of Human Services.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-978) proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to require the Department of Human Services to contract for ombudsman services, with a nonprofit organization other than the health benefits advisor, for the Medicaid managed care population provided that non-General Fund money is used for the state seed to pay for the services. The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 681 requires the Department of Human Services to contract for ombudsman services, with a nonprofit organization other than the health benefits advisor, for the Medicaid managed care population provided that non-General Fund money is used for the state seed to pay for the services.

LD 256

**An Act to Enhance the Health of Maine Citizens by Improving
Community Health Programs**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FULLER PENDLETON	ONTP	

LD 256 proposed to expand the responsibilities of the Maine Center for Public Health Practice to include evaluation of the health of Maine residents and the quality and effectiveness of health care and health programs and making recommendations to improve the health of Maine residents and their access to health care and health programs.

LD 528

**An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force to
Study the Need for an Ombudsman for the Department of Human
Services and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation
and Substance Abuse Services Relating to the Department of
Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services**

P & S 95

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM	H-1080 S-742 MICHAUD

LD 528 proposed to implement the recommendations of the Task Force to Study the Need for an Ombudsman for the Department of Human Services and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services related to the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1080) proposed to replace the bill. It reflects the work of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services on children's ombudsman functions. The amendment contains the following provisions.

1. The amendment proposed to repeal the statute that established the Child Welfare Services Ombudsman in the Department of Human Services, which has not been funded in recent years.
2. The amendment proposed to establish the Child Ombudsman Office to provide ombudsman services to children and families through a contract with a nonprofit organization. The office would be able to answer inquiries and investigate and work toward resolution of complaints regarding services and programs for children and families, provide information, assistance and legal representation services, provide an outreach program, collect and analyze information and report annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters.
3. The amendment proposed to provide for access to records, confidentiality of those records and immunity from civil and criminal liability.
4. The amendment proposed to appropriate funds for the contract for the Child Ombudsman Office.

5. The amendment proposed to require a report by January 1, 2001 on transferring to the Child Ombudsman Office authority for other child ombudsman and advocacy programs and services and the funding associated with those programs and services. It proposed to allow the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters to submit legislation to the 120th Legislature transferring funding and authority for services to the Child Ombudsman Office.
6. The amendment proposed to add requirements for review of policies in the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Child and Family Services regarding child protective matters, and require the provision of information to parents involved in the child protective system.
7. The amendment proposed to add an appropriation and a fiscal note.
8. The amendment proposed to provide an effective date of July 15, 2000 for reviewing child protective services and procedures and October 1, 2000 for the remainder of the bill.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-742) proposed to remove those portions of Committee Amendment "A" that proposed to establish the Child Ombudsman Office, require reporting by the Director of the Child Ombudsman Office and provide funding to establish that office.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1999, chapter 95 requires the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Child and Family Services to review its rules regarding child protective matters and requires the provision of information to parents involved in the child protective system.

LD 975

An Act to Establish a Mental Health, Human Services and Corrections Ombudsman

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
TOWNSEND
PENDLETON

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 975 proposed to create the Office of Mental Health, Human Services and Corrections Ombudsman, an autonomous agency designed to represent the best interests of individuals involved in the State's mental health, human services and corrections systems and to provide independent clinical oversight for cases in the State's mental health, human services and corrections systems.

LD 1290

An Act to Create the Position of Ombudsman in the Department of Human Services

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
PLOWMAN

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1290 proposed to create the Office of Human Services Ombudsman, an autonomous agency designed to represent the best interests of individuals involved in matters in the Department of Human Services and

to provide independent clinical oversight for cases in the Department of Human Services. The bill proposed to give legislators access to records maintained by the ombudsman relating to child custody cases in which the department is involved, as long as the parents of the child agree.

LD 1322 An Act to Ensure the Provision of Long-term Care Services INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BERUBE LOVETT	OTP-AM	

LD 1322 proposed to ensure that in-home care for persons who are in need of long-term care is made available to all eligible participants. This bill proposed to provide that funds appropriated to the in-home care account do not lapse at the end of the fiscal year, but carry over to the next fiscal year. It also proposed to require that funds appropriated to the nursing home account but not spent be transferred to the in-home care account.

LD 1378 An Act to Ensure Access to Long-term Care Services for Persons with Dementia ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
COWGER PARADIS	ONTP	

LD 1378 proposed to require the Department of Human Services to include in its medical eligibility assessment criteria a certain definition of the term "problem behavior" in order to ensure access to appropriate long-term care services for persons with dementia.

LD 1432 An Act to Improve Care to Nursing Home Residents by Requiring Adequate Staff to Provide Hands-on Care ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ETNIER BENNETT	ONTP	

LD 1432 proposed to increase the ratios of direct-care providers to residents, define "direct care" as hands-on care and require extra staff at meal times to ensure adequate nutrition to residents. This bill proposed to require the Department of Human Services to contract with one or more experts in the field of nurse staffing research and long-term care to recommend a methodology for determining appropriate nursing facility staffing levels based on resident acuity and to report back to the Legislature by May 1, 1999.

See Public Law 1999, chapter 731, Part BBBB.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PINGREE	OTP MAJ	
KANE	ONTP MIN	

LD 1477 proposed to extend Medicaid coverage to the parents or the caretaker relative of those children who are eligible for the Maine Medicaid program if their family income is below 150% of the nonfarm income official poverty line. The bill proposed to increase eligibility up to 185% of the nonfarm income official poverty line when nonfarm income official matching funds become available.

See Public Law 1999, chapter 731, part BBBB.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRENNAN	OTP-AM	H-1103 S-768 MICHAUD

LD 1623 proposed to establish the Children in Need of Services Program. The program proposed to provide for a safety plan consisting of housing, medical care, nutritional care and education for children 15 years of age and under who have been determined to be in need of supervision.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1103) proposed to establish the Youth in Need of Services Program. The program would provide for a preliminary assessment and safety plan consisting of housing, medical care, food, education, mental health and substance abuse services and treatment and support services for youth under 16 years of age who have been determined to be in need of services. The amendment proposed to provide for a proceeding in the District Court to obtain services for youth determined to be in imminent danger of serious physical, mental or emotional injury or at risk of prosecution for a juvenile offense. If a court finds that a youth is in need of services and is in imminent danger or at risk of prosecution for a juvenile offense, the amendment would require the court to order that those services be offered. The amendment proposed to require the establishment of a court-ordered service system for youth in need of services by July 1, 2001, with statewide operation by November 1, 2001. The amendment proposed to clarify that youth may receive treatment through religious means and that receiving treatment through religious means does not in itself qualify a youth as being in need of services.

The amendment proposed to establish the Youth in Need of Services Oversight Committee for children's issues when services are provided or funded by the State or when a youth would be eligible for state services or state-funded services, with the exception of mental health issues. The amendment proposed to require the Youth in Need of Services Oversight Committee to report to the Legislature by January 15, 2001 on court-ordered services for youth in need of services.

The amendment proposed to provide for the expansion to Region II of the Homeless Youth Demonstration Project created in Resolve 1999, chapter 55 and proposed to require the Department of Human Services and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to report on their

evaluation of the project and the recommendations of the stakeholders to the Youth in Need of Services Oversight Committee by February 1, 2001.

The amendment proposed to require the Department of Corrections, the Department of Education, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to work together to identify and develop plans to address the needs of youth in need of services, proposed to require them to begin discussions to sign memoranda of understanding to provide necessary services to youths 12 to 20 years of age and proposed to require them to report the results of their work to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters and to the Youth in Need of Services Oversight Committee by March 1, 2001. The amendment proposed to add an appropriation section and a fiscal note to the bill.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-768) proposed to replace Committee Amendment "A." The amendment proposed to establish the Youth in Need of Services Pilot Program. The program would provide for a preliminary assessment and safety plan consisting of housing, medical care, food, education, mental health and substance abuse services and treatment and support services for youth under 15 years of age who have been determined to be in need of services. The amendment proposed to provide for a proceeding in the District Court to obtain services for youth determined to be in imminent danger of serious physical, mental or emotional injury or at risk of prosecution for a juvenile offense. If a court finds that a youth is in need of services and is in imminent danger or at risk of prosecution for a juvenile offense, the amendment proposed to require the court to order that those services be offered.

The amendment proposed to establish the Youth in Need of Services Oversight Committee and to provide for the expansion to Region II of the Homeless Youth Demonstration Project created in Resolve 1999, chapter 55 and proposed to require the Department of Human Services and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to report on their evaluation of the project and the recommendations of the stakeholders to the Youth in Need of Services Oversight Committee by February 1, 2001.

The amendment also proposed to add an appropriation section.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 778 establishes the Youth in Need of Services Pilot Program. The program provides for a preliminary assessment and a safety plan consisting of housing, medical care, food, education, mental health and substance abuse services and treatment and support services for youth under 15 years of age who have been determined to be in need of services. The law provides for a proceeding in the District Court to obtain services for youth determined to be in imminent danger of serious physical, mental or emotional injury or at risk of prosecution for a juvenile offense. If a court finds that a youth is in need of services and is in imminent danger or at risk of prosecution for a juvenile offense, the law requires the court to order that those services be offered.

The law expands to Region II the Homeless Youth Demonstration Project created in Resolve 1999, chapter 55. It requires the Department of Human Services and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to report on their evaluation of the project and the recommendations of the stakeholders to the Youth in Need of Services Oversight Committee by February 1, 2001.

LD 1668

An Act Regarding Promoting Access to Transportation

PUBLIC 631

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LAWRENCE QUINT	OTP-AM	S-595

LD 1668 proposed to establish the Drive ME Wheels-to-work Program and requires the Commissioner of Human Services to adopt rules to implement the program, which would provide loans for the purchase of used vehicles and for the purchase of repair and maintenance services to people who receive assistance through the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. The loans would be provided through community action agencies at below-market rates. The bill also proposed to create a revolving loan fund to finance the program.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-595) proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to exempt from the used car dealer licensing requirements public agencies or nonprofit organizations that receive donated vehicles, place them in good operating order and provide them to low-income people for no more than the cost of ensuring that they are in good operating condition. Public or nonprofit organizations that provide vehicles in this manner would be subject to the used car information provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, chapter 217 and would be required to register with the Secretary of State and maintain a certificate of training as required by the Secretary of State.

The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 631 exempts from the used car dealer licensing requirements public agencies or nonprofit organizations that receive donated vehicles, place them in good operating order and provide them to low-income people for no more than the cost of ensuring that they are in good operating condition. Public or nonprofit organizations that provide vehicles in this manner are subject to the used car information provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, chapter 217 and are required to register with the Secretary of State and maintain a certificate of training as required by the Secretary of State.

LD 1733

**An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Provision of Services to
Persons with Alzheimer's Disease**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KILKELLY	ONTP	

LD 1733 proposed to require the Department of Human Services to consider the fluctuating nature of Alzheimer's disease so that the medical and social needs of a person being evaluated for the disease could be fully assessed and the appropriate level of services provided.

See Public Law 1999, chapter 731, part BBBB.

LD 1807

**Resolve, to Encourage Access and Quality Care for People with
Alzheimer's Disease in Residential Care Facilities**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
COLWELL PARADIS	ONTP	

LD 1807 proposed to require the Department of Human Services to review the case mix assessment tool and reimbursement rate for residential care facilities to ensure access and quality care for persons with Alzheimer's disease or other types of dementia.

See Public Law 1999, chapter 731, part BBBB.

LD 1814

An Act Establishing the Newborn Hearing Program

PUBLIC 647

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FULLER TREAT	OTP-AM	H-931

LD 1814 proposed to establish the Newborn Hearing Program to provide hearing screening, evaluation, treatment and intervention to newborn children and to children within 3 months of the date of their birth. The program would be within the Department of Human Services and would be overseen by the Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Board. The bill proposed to require insurance policies and contracts and health maintenance organization contracts to provide coverage for newborn children hearing screening.

Committee Amendment “A” (H-931) proposed to replace the bill. The amendment proposed to remove the oversight responsibilities of the Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Board, making it advisory only. The amendment proposed to remove the requirement that health coverage contracts provide newborn hearing screening and be subject to assessment to pay for screening.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 647 establishes the Newborn Hearing Program to provide hearing information on screening, evaluation, treatment and intervention to newborn children and to children within 3 months of the date of their birth. The program is within the Department of Human Services, with advice provided by the Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Board.

LD 1838

**An Act to Include Mental Retardation, Developmental Disability
and Substance Abuse Services in the Community Service System of
the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and
Substance Abuse Services and to Consolidate Those Advisory
Bodies to the Department**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KANE PARADIS	ONTP	

LD 1838 proposed to restructure the delivery of services by the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services.

See also LD 2150.

LD 1839

**An Act to Maintain High-quality Services in Long-term Care in
Maine**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FULLER BENNETT	ONTP	

LD 1839 proposed to make modifications to the reimbursement system to more accurately reflect the actual cost of services in all segments of the continuum of long-term care. The bill proposed to: require the Department of Human Services to utilize 1997 data, rather than 1993 data as is currently the standard, for calculating reimbursement rates and cost components; provide for calculation of a facility's case mix based on the facility's total population, regardless of source of payment; reclassify certain cost components as direct costs; and direct the department to establish annually the maximum reimbursement rates by taking into account the size of the facility and by utilizing current year-end data. It also proposed to direct the department to recognize as an allowable fixed cost the nursing facility's allocated share of debt service or outstanding debt resulting from either the sale of licensed beds by a facility or the closure of a nursing facility.

The bill also proposed to establish the Medicaid Automation Grant Fund for the purpose of facilitating the improved efficiency of facility operations. The bill proposed to authorize the department to establish criteria for approving disbursements from the fund to facilities.

The bill proposed to repeal the requirement that a nursing facility that participates in the Medicaid program also must participate in the Medicare program as a skilled nursing facility.

The bill proposed to provide facilities with a limited opportunity to utilize nursing facility beds for the provision of residential care services if there are no residential care beds available within 25 miles of that facility or if necessary to meet the care needs of an existing resident.

The bill proposed to address the problem of an existing over-supply of nursing facility beds. The department would be authorized to entertain proposals from nursing facilities to sell some or all of their

licensed beds back to the department. The bill proposed to provide funding for this purpose through loans from Maine Health and Higher Educational Facilities Authority.

The bill proposed to provide for the allocation of the total net outstanding debt among remaining facilities within a multi-facility operator's system in proportion to the number of licensed beds owned by each remaining nursing facility.

The bill proposed to eliminate the requirement for obtaining approval of the care plan by the department or by the home health care agency; eliminate the condition that the home health care agencies in the area indicate that they are unable to provide the services in question; and add the requirement that the facilities must notify the home health agencies of the fact that the facilities will be providing those services.

The bill proposed to revise the medical eligibility provisions applicable to the Medicaid program to require the department to discontinue its current practice of denying all reimbursement to a nursing facility that inadvertently misses the established deadline for asking the department to reassess a resident's eligibility.

The bill proposed to require the department to utilize 1997 data for calculating the maximum allowable reimbursement for facilities' routine costs. The bill proposed to require that the department distinguish between facilities with 30 or more beds and those with fewer than 30 beds in establishing the maximum amount of reimbursable costs for the various cost categories established for residential care.

The bill proposed to direct the department to resume its approval of staffing requests by residential care facilities as had been the department's practice prior to June of 1998.

The bill proposed to prohibit the department from reducing the Medicaid home health benefit.

The bill proposed to establish the Commission to Study Job Training and Career Advancement for Long-term Care Health Professionals and Personnel. The commission would consist of representatives of the affected agencies and health workers for the purpose of establishing a set of health practitioner job descriptions and training requirements that are simple, are logically sequential and build up into a career ladder for individuals in the field.

Finally, the bill proposed to provide for a \$1,000,000 appropriation from the General Fund to provide additional respite, homemaker and home-based care services to individuals who have been placed on the department's waiting list for these services.

See also Public Law 1999, chapter 731, part BBBB.

LD 1952

**An Act to Simplify the Process of Determining the Eligibility of
Homeless Persons for General Assistance**

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
KANE

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1952 proposed to make the municipality where the shelter is located the municipality of administrative responsibility for the purposes of general assistance and proposed to require the Department of Human Services to reimburse that municipality for 100% of the general assistance issued to the local homeless

shelter. The department's responsibility to provide 100% reimbursement would be limited to the recipient's first 45 consecutive days in the institution. The bill also proposed to clarify that hotels, motels or rooming houses would be considered to be homeless shelters when the municipality places applicants in transient housing facilities because no permanent housing for the applicant is available. Finally, this bill proposed to clarify that any general assistance issued by a municipality that is reimbursed 100% by the department will not be counted as net general assistance for the purpose of calculating the level of non-100% reimbursement that is provided the municipality by the department.

LD 1963

An Act to Establish the Maine Council on Aging

**DIED BETWEEN
BODIES**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FULLER	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	

LD 1963 proposed to establish the Maine Council on Aging as an independent advisory council. The council's duties would include advising, consulting and assisting the executive and legislative branches of State Government on issues and activities related to older people; advocating on behalf of older people; disseminating information, sponsoring forums and holding a statewide Blaine House Conference on Aging at least every 2 years.

LD 1984

An Act to Establish Department of Human Services Review Panels

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CAMPBELL RUHLIN	ONTP	

LD 1984 proposed to establish 6 regional Department of Human Services review panels that would review all services provided by the department for efficiency and cost effectiveness. The panels would report to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over human services matters and make recommendations to the Commissioner of Human Services.

LD 2046

**An Act to Amend the Powers of Hospital Administrative District
No. 1**

**P & S 84
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CATHCART MICHAUD	OTP-AM	S-607

LD 2046 proposed to amend the powers of Hospital Administrative District No. 1.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-607) proposed to replace the bill and add emergency language. It proposed to retain most of the provisions of the bill regarding the powers of Hospital Administrative District No. 1. The amendment proposed to remove the provisions of the bill that pertain to an executive committee of the board of directors. The provision pertaining to the voting lists would be repealed and reenacted to correct a numbering error in the law.

The amendment proposed to require a public informational meeting to be held prior to the directors voting on a project to be bonded. It proposed to increase the debt limitation to \$7,000,000. It proposed to amend the petition for referendum provision to lower the number of signatures required, increase the time period for collecting signatures, provide that the clerks of the municipalities verify the signatures on the petitions and change the vote from a districtwide meeting at which the vote is taken to a vote in each municipality, in the same manner as a general election. It proposed to require the referendum vote to be held within 120 days from receipt of the petition. It proposed to prohibit splitting a project for purposes of evading a requirement of law. It proposed to add a provision that subjects to referendum all bond issues in an amount of \$2,000,000 or more that are approved by the board of directors of the Hospital Administrative District after January 1, 2002.

This amendment proposed to add municipal mandate override language because of the provision that requires the clerks of the municipalities to verify the signatures on the petitions.

It also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1999, chapter 84 amends the powers of Hospital Administrative District No. 1 in Lincoln. It requires a public informational meeting to be held prior to the directors voting on a project to be bonded. It increases the debt limitation to \$7,000,000. It amends the petition for referendum provision to lower the number of signatures required, increase the time period for collecting signatures, provide that the clerks of the municipalities verify the signatures on the petitions and change the vote from a districtwide meeting at which the vote is taken to a vote in each municipality, in the same manner as a general election. It requires the referendum vote to be held within 120 days from receipt of the petition. It prohibits splitting a project for purposes of evading a requirement of law. It adds a provision that subjects to referendum all bond issues in an amount of \$2,000,000 or more that are approved by the board of directors of the Hospital Administrative District after January 1, 2002.

Private and Special Law 1999, chapter 84 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 14, 2000.

LD 2119

An Act to Enhance Competition and Public Health

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
O'NEIL
LAWRENCE

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 2119 proposed to prohibit the free distribution of tobacco products to any person in the ordinary course of trade, business or other corporate enterprise and create a civil penalty similar to that in current law for the sale of unpackaged cigarettes. This prohibition is distinguished from another in current law that prohibits the free distribution of tobacco products to minors by any person whether that person is acting in

the course of business or not. The bill proposed to prohibit self-service displays of tobacco products except in a business establishment where the primary business is the retail sale of tobacco products. The bill also proposed to prohibit the producers of tobacco products from offering incentives as a reward for increasing sales of tobacco products. The penalty for a violation of these prohibitions would be the same as for violations of other tobacco product sales prohibitions, such as sales to minors and sales through vending machines in unlawful ways.

LD 2128 Resolve, Regarding Public Health Supervision of Dental Hygienists RESOLVE 104

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LOVETT PARADIS	OTP-AM	H-930

LD 2128 proposed to amend the laws governing the licensure of dental hygienists in the following ways.

1. It proposed to add 3 members to the Board of Dental Examiners, 2 additional dental hygienists and one additional representative of the public.
2. It proposed to set standards for the licensure of dental hygienists by the Board of Dental Examiners.
3. It proposed to increase the number of hours of continuing education that a dental hygienist must successfully complete as a condition of renewal of a license to practice.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-930) proposed to change the title and format of the bill and direct the Board of Dental Examiners to amend the rule regarding public health supervision of dental hygienists in order to provide less restrictive public health supervision of dental hygienists. The purpose of the rule change would be to encourage greater utilization of services in institutional, public health and other settings outside a dental office. Rules adopted pursuant to this provision would be designated as routine technical rules. The amendment proposed to add a fiscal note.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1999, chapter 104 directs the Board of Dental Examiners to amend the rule regarding public health supervision of dental hygienists in order to provide less restrictive public health supervision of dental hygienists. The purpose of the rule change is to encourage greater utilization of services in institutional, public health and other settings outside a dental office. Rules adopted pursuant to this provision are designated as routine technical rules.

LD 2150 An Act to Ensure Community-based Services for Persons With ONTP
Mental Retardation or Autism

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
QUINT PARADIS	ONTP	

LD 2150 proposed to incorporate into statute portions of the 1994 Community Consent Decree for the provision of services to persons with mental retardation or autism.

This bill proposed to establish a policy of providing education, training and support services and programs to persons with mental retardation or autism and establish a committee to study whether to identify the population eligible for services and programs within the scope of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 34-B, chapter 4 as persons with developmental disabilities, or whether to continue to identify the population as persons with mental retardation or autism.

The bill proposed to continue the current practice of person-centered planning as a means for identifying and articulating the needs of clients for services and programs, to require that the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services maintain the ratio of caseworkers to clients required by the decree and to require that the department maintain the current system of crisis and respite services.

The bill proposed to provide mechanisms to promote the level of programs and services specified by the decree and require that the department provide a system for speedy resolution of grievances and appeals in cases where needs go unmet. It proposed to require that the department maintain accurate records about needs for services, conduct public hearings and summarize and report the status of the system to the Legislature as well as plan to correct identified deficiencies. The bill proposed to continue the Consumer Advisory Board as an independent oversight body with reporting responsibilities and to require the department to develop a quality assurance plan.

LD 2187

Resolve, to Study Youth Homelessness

INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
QUINT PARADIS	OTP-AM	

LD 2187 proposed to implement 4 recommendations of the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and Housing Opportunities, issued pursuant to Public Law 1997, chapter 643, Part XX, section 5. The following are the 4 recommendations implemented by this resolve.

1. The resolve proposed to establish a study of a potential Maine runaway and homeless youth system to examine, for runaway and homeless youth, community-based options, low-barrier access, assessment, treatment, family mediation and outreach services that are consistent statewide to determine what minimal level of service is required to ensure the safety and well-being of unaccompanied homeless youths. The resolve proposed to establish a 10-member task force to conduct the study and submit a report of its findings, together with any recommended implementing legislation to the Legislature by March 1, 2000. The resolve proposed to appropriate \$20,000 through the Maine State Housing Authority to pay for the study.
2. The resolve proposed to appropriate \$100,000 each for the Department of Corrections, Department of Human Services, Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, Department of Labor and Department of Education to develop additional services and plans to serve youths who have outgrown the system. These services and plans would assist youths who are up to 21

years of age and who are leaving the care of a department to undertake job training and to pursue education and housing programs.

3. The resolve proposed to establish a study of the impact of legislative changes over the last 8 years to General Assistance. The study would focus on effectiveness, administrative practices at the local and state level, cost of delivering General Assistance, client benefits and the effect on homelessness. This resolve proposed to establish a 9-member task force to conduct the study and submit a report of its findings, together with any recommended implementing legislation to the Legislature by March 1, 2000. The resolve proposed to appropriate \$5,000 through the Department of Human Services to pay for the study.
4. The resolve proposed to increase the funding for the Temporary Housing Assistance Program by \$250,000, from \$250,000 to \$500,000. The amount increased would be dedicated to serve homeless families or homeless youths staying in shelters by providing security deposits and rental assistance. The Community Action Agencies would administer the dedicated funds.

The total amount of the proposed appropriations contained in this resolve equals \$1,025,000.

LD 2212 An Act to Revise Laws Regarding Persons with Mental Retardation ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KANE RAND	ONTP	

LD 2212 proposed to revise and update the laws in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 34-B dealing with persons with mental retardation or autism in order to more accurately reflect current practices and to bring the law into compliance with judicial mandates.

LD 2269 An Act to Make Changes to the Cub Care Program INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FULLER	OTP-AM	

LD 2269 proposed to make the following changes to the laws governing the Cub Care program. It proposed to allow the program to serve children who have not attained one year of age and set premiums for families with incomes between 185% and 200% of the nonfarm income official poverty line.

See Public Law 1999, chapter 731, Part PP.

LD 2272**An Act to Increase the Availability of Family Foster Homes****PUBLIC 599**

Sponsor(s)
BROOKS

Committee Report
OTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 2272 proposed to extend the term of a family foster home or specialized foster home license from a one-year period to a 2-year period.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 599 extends the term of a family foster home or specialized foster home license from a one-year period to a 2-year period.

LD 2273**An Act Regarding Asthma Management Education****ONTP**

Sponsor(s)
DESMOND

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 2273 proposed to direct the Department of Human Services to adopt rules no later than October 1, 2000 to provide Medicaid coverage for certified medical professionals in any health care setting to provide asthma management education.

LD 2305**An Act to Amend the Child Care Licensing Laws****ONTP**

Sponsor(s)
TOWNSEND

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 2305 proposed to clarify that both criminal and civil penalties may be imposed for violations of child care licensing laws.

This bill also proposed to allow the assessment of civil forfeitures of not more than \$500 per incident or per child above the limit set by law against child care facilities in violation of state licensing standards. It also proposed to allow the Department of Human Services to seek injunctive relief when necessary.

LD 2308**Resolve, to Provide Adequate Reimbursement for Speech and Language Pathologists and Audiologists and a Study of Medicaid Reimbursement****INDEF PP**

Sponsor(s)
CATHCART

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted

LD 2308 proposed to direct the Department of Human Services to increase the reimbursement rate by 18% for speech and language pathologist services to match the recent increase in Medicaid reimbursement rates for speech and language centers.

LD 2324 Resolve, to Increase the Reimbursement Amount for Occupational and Physical Therapy Services Under the Medicaid Program INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KANE	OTP-AM MAJ	
	OTP-AM MIN	

LD 2324 proposed to require the Department of Human Services to adopt rules that would take effect on January 1, 2001 and that would increase the amount of reimbursement under the Medicaid program for occupational and physical therapy services to 50% of the usual and customary charge.

LD 2358 An Act to Ban Smoking in Enclosed Areas of Places Licensed for the Sale of Food or Alcohol ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MILLS	ONTP	

This bill proposed to prohibit smoking in the enclosed areas of places licensed for the sale of food and alcohol under licenses issued to taverns and lounges while they are open for that purpose. Current law prohibits smoking in the enclosed areas of restaurants and most other places, but does not prohibit smoking in places that are licensed to serve food and alcohol under the license issued to taverns and lounges.

LD 2360 An Act to Provide Equitable Delivery of Mental Health Services ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LAWRENCE WHEELER G	ONTP	

LD 2360 proposed to provide equitable delivery of mental health services to all consumers in the State.

LD 2368 An Act to Promote Bone Marrow Donation INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KILKELLY	OTP-AM	

LD 2368 proposed to create the Human Leukocyte Antigen Screening Fund to help cover the costs of screening and registration for bone marrow donors.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-596) proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to retain the provisions of the bill that establish the Human Leukocyte Antigen Screening Fund, replace the provisions assessing a fee of 25¢ per insured person on health insurance carriers and provide funding in the first year of \$250,000 from the Fund for a Healthy Maine and continuing funding through a voluntary income tax contribution checkoff created in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36. It proposed to add an allocation of the \$250,000, an appropriation section and to a fiscal note.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-695) proposed to strike the appropriation section for the administrative costs of the Bureau of Revenue Services within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

See Public Law 1999, chapter 731, Part SS.

LD 2374

**Resolve, to Implement the Recommendations Contained in the
Report Entitled "Women's Health: An Action Plan for Maine"**

RESOLVE 129

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MITCHELL B KANE	OTP-AM	S-585 S-749 MICHAUD

LD 2374 proposed to establish the Office of Women's Health in the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health, with resources and personnel also drawn from the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, to provide leadership and coordination in developing a comprehensive outlook on the overall health status of women.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-585) proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to establish the Office of Women's Health, within the Department of Human Services, to provide leadership in the field of health for women and girls and to improve their health status and their access to health services. The office would develop programs and services, make grants to nonprofit and community organizations for the purpose of improving women's health, coordinate women's health efforts and advise the Commissioner of Human Services and Commissioner of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services. The amendment also proposed to establish the Women's Health Advisory Committee to advise and assist the Director of the Office of Women's Health, to advocate on behalf of women and girls with respect to health and to gather and disseminate information and commission studies and publicize the results. The amendment proposed to appropriate \$408,057 for these purposes and to add a fiscal note.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-749) proposed to strike the committee amendment and provide one-time funds for the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health to contract with a nonprofit organization to implement the recommendations contained in the report entitled "Women's Health: An Action Plan for Maine," prepared by Medical Care Development, Inc. in July 1999.

See also LD 2495.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1999, chapter 129 provides one-time funds of \$200,000 for the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health to contract with a nonprofit organization to implement the recommendations contained in the report entitled "Women's Health: An Action Plan for Maine," prepared by Medical Care Development, Inc. in July 1999.

LD 2379

**An Act to Establish a Comprehensive Electronic Claims-filing
System for the Medicaid Program**

INDEF PP

Sponsor(s)
AMERO

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
S-679

LD 2379 proposed to prohibit the imposition of a processing fee or the restructuring of the reimbursement rate for electronically submitted claims for Medicaid pharmacy benefits. The bill proposed to establish a requirement that the Department of Human Services conduct a current cost-of-dispensing survey prior to any subsequent revisions to the dispensing fee.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-679) proposed to replace the bill. The amendment proposed to:

1. Provide a new title;
2. Require the Department of Human Services to develop and implement a comprehensive electronic claims-filing system available to all providers in the Medicaid program. The system would be funded with state and federal funds. The amendment proposed to require a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters by January 2, 2002 on the pharmacy services study;
3. Require the Department of Human Services to conduct an in-depth study of pharmacy services prior to changing the dispensing fee for pharmacy service claims. This study would determine the full cost of filling a prescription and providing pharmacy services, including reasonable profits, in the Medicaid program, Cub Care program, elderly low-cost drug program and Maine resident low-cost prescription drug program. The department would be required to consider the results of this study when determining pharmacy reimbursement rates. By January 2, 2002, the department would be required to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters the results of the study of the pharmacy services; and
4. Add a fiscal note to the bill.

See Public Law 1999, chapter 731, Part A, Section 1.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCGLOCKLIN TREAT	OTP-AM	H-868

LD 2415 proposed to provide information about services to help low-income families in order to maintain employment and to eliminate certain barriers to receiving food stamps for those families. Under current law there is a vehicle asset limit that prevents certain families that own dependable vehicles from receiving food stamps. This bill proposed to authorize certain low-income households to receive referral services through the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families block grant, and to make such households categorically eligible for food stamps.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-868) proposed to change references in the bill from "minor child" to "child who would be a dependent child under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program," and to add a fiscal note.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 637 provides information about services to help low-income families maintain employment and to eliminate certain barriers to receiving food stamps for those families. Under current law there is a vehicle asset limit that prevents certain families that own dependable vehicles from receiving food stamps. This law allows certain low-income households to receive referral services through the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families block grant and makes such households categorically eligible for food stamps.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SCHNEIDER	OTP	

LD 2434 proposed to authorize an individual eligible for the consumer-directed personal assistance services program to hire certain family members as personal assistants to the degree permitted by federal law, retroactively to the date the federal law was effective. This bill proposed to direct the Department of Human Services to adopt rules to implement this provision.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 615 authorizes an individual eligible for the consumer-directed personal assistance services program to hire certain family members as personal assistants to the degree permitted by federal law, retroactively to the date the federal law was effective. This law directs the Department of Human Services to adopt rules to implement this provision.

LD 2454**Resolve, to Provide Medicaid Reimbursement for Hospice Care****DIED ON
ADJOURNMENT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
QUINT RAND	OTP-AM	H-1023 QUINT H-971

LD 2454 proposed to direct the Department of Human Services to adopt rules to amend its state plan to provide Medicaid reimbursement for hospice care.

LD 2463**An Act to Establish the Tobacco Smokers Medical Fund****ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GOODWIN DOUGLASS	ONTP	

LD 2463 proposed to use 75% of the funds received as a result of the tobacco settlement to establish a fund to be used for medical treatment for individuals with diseases determined to result from smoking or secondhand smoke.

See Public Law 1999, chapter 731.

LD 2465**An Act to Enhance Day Care Opportunities for Latchkey Children****ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SHERMAN	ONTP	

LD 2465 proposed to increase the number of children to whom a home day care provider may provide day care services from 12 to 17 if at least 5 of the children are only present in the home from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on school days.

LD 2475**An Act to Encourage Assisted Living Facilities Projects in the State****ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KILKELLY PIEH	ONTP	

LD 2475 proposed to direct the Bureau of Elder and Adult Services within the Department of Human Services to reimburse assisted living facilities that are renovating existing buildings at the same rate as for new construction.

LD 2476**An Act to Promote Improvements to and Evaluation of Services by
Long-term Care Providers****ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BERUBE	ONTP	

LD 2476 proposed to require that, before any changes are made to the principles of reimbursement for a long-term care provider, there must be in place in each facility mechanisms to promote internal quality improvements, consumer councils and a system to measure and evaluate consumer satisfaction. The bill also proposed to require an independent review of the financial stability, fiscal management and other management practices of long-term care providers.

LD 2495**An Act to Coordinate and Improve Access to Health Care for
Women****ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
POWERS PINGREE	ONTP	

LD 2495 proposed to establish the Women's Health Initiative, coordinated by an employee in the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health, Division of Community and Family Health. The initiative would be administered by the recipient of a state contract under the guidance of an appointed steering committee. The purpose of the initiative would be to improve the health status of and access to health services for women and girls. The initiative would be funded with General Fund money for one position and related expenses in the Department of Human Services and for an amount to be contracted out to the entity that provides the administrative services for the program. The bill proposed an effective date of July 1, 2000.

See also LD 2374.

LD 2513**Resolve, Regarding Services for Older Persons with Mental Illness****RESOLVE 106**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PARADIS	OTP-AM	S-586

LD 2513 was a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

In the First Regular Session of the 119th Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services requested that the Department of Human Services and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services work with the Joint Advisory Committee on Select Services for the Elderly to study the provision of mental health services to the elderly and report its findings to the joint standing committee by January 1, 2000. Specifically, the joint standing committee requested that the departments and the advisory committee review the mental health service needs of the elderly, the extent to which services are available and unavailable and any information on disparities in unmet need by

geographic region, service setting or residential setting of the older person. LD 2513 proposed to implement the recommendations of the departments and the advisory committee.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-586) proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to require the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services and the Department of Human Services to undertake initiatives regarding services to older persons with special needs, require the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to adopt quality assurance measures and performance indicators and require the two departments to support the Joint Advisory Committee on Select Services for Older Persons, which would advise the departments and monitor new initiatives. The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the resolve.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1999, chapter 106 requires the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services and the Department of Human Services to undertake initiatives regarding services to older persons with special needs, requires the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to adopt quality assurance measures and performance indicators and requires the two departments to support the Joint Advisory Committee on Select Services for Older Persons, which will advise the departments and monitor new initiatives.

LD 2523

An Act to Establish Fair Pricing for Prescription Drugs

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PINGREE QUINT	ONTP	

LD 2523 proposed to establish the Maine Prescription Drug Fair Pricing Act. LD 2523 proposed to do the following:

1. It proposed to establish the Fair Drug Pricing Board. The board, with the approval of the Legislature, would set the maximum prices for prescription drugs based upon a specific formula. The board would be required to work with the Department of Human Services, the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation and the Maine Board of Pharmacy and to report regularly to those entities and the Legislature. The board would be empowered to enter into agreements with other States or Canadian provinces to ensure uniform prices for prescription drugs. The board would also be required to maintain an Internet site to give the public access to the price schedule established by the board.
2. The Attorney General would be given specific enforcement power of the Act. If the Attorney General finds that a violation of certain laws has occurred, the Attorney General would recommend the suspension or revocation of a manufacturer's certificate of registration. If 50 or more Maine citizens petition the Attorney General alleging excessive prescription drug prices, the Attorney General would be required to investigate.
3. The sale of prescription drugs over the Internet would be prohibited.
4. The current prohibition against profiteering in necessities would be expanded to include prescription drugs.

See also LD 2599.

LD 2559

**An Act to Amend the Charter of Hospital Administrative District
No. 4**

P & S 70

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAVIS P	OTP	

LD 2559 proposed to increase the maximum debt limit for Hospital Administrative District #4 (Mayo Hospital) from \$7,000,000 to an amount not to exceed 2% of the total current state valuation of all towns and plantations that are members of the district.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1999, chapter 70 increases the maximum debt limit for Hospital Administrative District #4 (Mayo Hospital in Dover-Foxcroft) from \$7,000,000 to an amount not to exceed 2% of the total current state valuation of all towns and plantations that are members of the district.

LD 2580

Resolve, Regarding Access to Marijuana for Medical Use

RESOLVE 137

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
RAND QUINT	OTP-AM	S-597 S-797 RAND

LD 2580 proposed to create a voluntary registry for eligible patients and designated caregivers under the Maine Medical Marijuana Act of 1998 in the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Medical Services, Division of Licensing and Certification. The bill also proposed to create a distribution system for such individuals to secure marijuana from the Department of Public Safety, Maine Drug Enforcement Agency. An eligible patient or designated caregiver would need a valid registry identification card in order to secure marijuana from the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-597) proposed to replace the bill, change the title and change the form of the bill to a resolve. It proposed to direct the Attorney General to convene a task force to study and make recommendations on implementation of the marijuana for medical purposes law and access to marijuana for medical purposes. It proposed to provide for the appointment of legislative members of the task force. It proposed to require a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services and the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice by October 1, 2000.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-776) proposed to add an emergency preamble and an emergency clause to the resolve and to require the Speaker of the House to give preference to members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice, the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary and the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services when making appointments to the task force.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1999, chapter 137 directs the Attorney General to convene a task force to study implementation of the marijuana for medical purposes law and to recommend steps to implement the law and provide access to marijuana for medical purposes. The task force must be broadly representative. The President of the Senate appoints 2 Senators and the Speaker of the House appoints 5 Representatives. By October 1, 2000, the task force is required to report its recommendations and any suggested legislation to the joint standing committees on criminal justice and health and human services.

LD 2597

An Act to Improve Public Water Supply Protection

PUBLIC 761

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM	H-1106

LD 2597 proposed to implement the recommendations of the Task Force to Study the Improvement of Public Water Supply Protection, established pursuant to Resolve 1999, chapter 80. The bill proposed to strengthen notice requirements for projects that could threaten water supplies and to require a municipality to give a water supplier notice if a project is proposed near its groundwater wells or surface water intakes.

The bill proposed to move the Maine Drinking Water Program from the Department of Human Services to the Department of Environmental Protection and to require the Department of Environmental Protection to hire a consultant to help integrate the program into its overall structure. The bill proposed to allow the Department of Environmental Protection to deny, based on the presence of existing threats, an application to establish a new public water supply. The bill also proposed to require the Land and Water Resources Council to develop an education strategy for public water supply protection aimed at municipalities and the general public.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1106) proposed to strengthen the authority of the drinking water program to deny an application for a new water supply in the vicinity of potential sources of contamination that already exist.

The amendment proposed, instead of moving the drinking water program effective July 1, 2001, to require the Department of Human Services and the Department of Environmental Protection to jointly hire a consultant to review the drinking water and plumbing control programs and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of various agencies to house the programs. The consultant would be required to submit a report outlining the findings of the review to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over natural resources and human services matters by February 1, 2001.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PINGREE	OTP-AM MAJ	H-1187 ROWE
ROWE	OTP-AM MIN	S-803 PINGREE

LD 2599 proposed to establish the Maine Prescription Drug Fair Pricing Act. The Maine Prescription Drug Fair Pricing Act (Part A of this bill) would accomplish that purpose by doing the following.

1. It proposed to establish the Fair Drug Pricing Board. The board, with the approval of the Legislature, would set the maximum prices for prescription drugs based upon a specific formula. The maximum price schedule established by the board would take effect only if:
 - A. The board determines that the prices of prescription drugs in Maine are above the prices set in the schedule; and
 - B. Other nonregulatory programs enacted by the Legislature, such as the Medicaid drug rebate program and the Maine resident low-cost prescription drug program, will not reduce the price of prescription drugs in Maine to or below the prices set in the schedule.

The board would be required to work with the Department of Human Services, the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation and the Maine Board of Pharmacy and to report regularly to those entities and the Legislature. Prices established by the board could be appealed by a manufacturer. The board could enter into agreements with other states or Canadian provinces to ensure uniform prices for prescription drugs. The board would be required to maintain an Internet site to give the public access to the price schedule established by the board.

2. It proposed to state the purpose and intent of the Legislature in enacting the Maine Prescription Drug Fair Pricing Act, which is to provide affordable access to medically necessary prescription drugs to Maine citizens by nonregulatory means. If such nonregulatory programs do not succeed in ensuring that prescription drugs are sold in Maine at fair and nondiscriminatory prices, a fair pricing program that prohibits excessive and discriminatory pricing would be the most effective and timely alternative to lower drug prices for all Maine citizens and the protection of the health and safety of citizens.
3. It proposed to require Maine health care providers, if appropriate, to inform their patients of pharmaceutical manufacturer patient assistance programs and state programs and measures that provide those patients with affordable access to prescription drugs. These programs and measures include the Medicaid prescription drug waiver, the Medicaid drug rebate program, exploration of regional strategies and purchasing alliances, the Maine resident low-cost prescription drug program, a report from the Maine Ambulatory Care Coalition on possibilities for lowering drug prices and the Medicaid program physician directed drug initiative established in the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Medical Services.
4. It proposed to give specific enforcement power of the Maine Prescription Drug Fair Pricing Act to the Attorney General through the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act and proposed to appropriate \$500,000 for that purpose.

5. It proposed to direct the Maine Ambulatory Care Coalition to investigate lower prices under the federal Public Health Services Act.
6. It proposed to appropriate \$50,000 for the purposes of the Fair Drug Pricing Board.

Part B of this bill proposed to modernize Medicaid recovery procedures and increase the eligibility level for the supplemental component of the elderly low-cost drug program established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 254.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-803) proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to do the following.

1. Part A proposed to enact a new chapter on prescription drug access. Enacted in this chapter would be the following:
 - A. Subchapter I would establish the Maine Rx Program to reduce prescription drug prices for residents of the State. The program would utilize manufacturer rebates and pharmacy discounts to reduce prescription drug prices. The State would serve as a pharmacy benefit manager in negotiating rebates and discounts on behalf of qualified residents. The program would depend on manufacturers and labelers of prescription drugs to pay rebates to the State that are used to provide discounted prices to qualifying Maine residents when they purchase prescription drugs.
 - B. It would establish the Maine Rx Dedicated Fund to receive revenue due to the program, to make payments to retail pharmacies as required by the program and to pay for contracted services, administrative costs and other program costs.
 - C. It would authorize the Department of Human Services to coordinate the Maine Rx Program with other medical and pharmaceutical assistance programs.
 - D. Subchapter II would enact the Prescription Drug Price Reduction Act. This subchapter would establish the Prescription Drug Advisory Commission, a 12-member commission that would advise the Commissioner of Human Services regarding access to prescription drugs and prescription drug prices. The commission would advise the commissioner on major substantive rules regarding the procedures to be used in setting and reviewing maximum retail prices for prescription drugs. The commission would be required to provide annual reports to the Commissioner of Human Services, the Governor and the Legislature by April 1, 2001 and by the 2nd week in January each succeeding year.
 - E. The Commissioner of Human Services would be required by January 5, 2003 to undertake a process to determine the need for maximum retail prices for prescription drugs. If the process results in a requirement that maximum retail prices be established, those prices would take effect by July 1, 2003. An appeal mechanism would be provided and also a mechanism for addressing situations that may threaten or endanger the public health or welfare. A violation of the maximum retail prices would be an unfair trade practice.
 - F. Subchapter III would contain a prohibition on profiteering in prescription drugs by manufacturers, their affiliates and subsidiaries, distributors and labelers of prescription drugs. Profiteering would be punished as a civil violation and would result in an award of triple damages, attorney's fees, punitive damages and costs. A violation of the subchapter would be a violation of the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act.

2. It would authorize the State to negotiate and enter into purchasing alliances and regional strategies with governments and public and private entities for the purpose of reducing prescription drug prices for residents of the State.
3. It would provide statements of findings, intent and purpose.
4. It would provide appropriations and allocations to fund the provisions of the amendment.
5. If the Commissioner of Human Services establishes maximum retail prices for prescription drugs under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 2693, the amendment would direct the commissioner to establish a drug formulary and prior authorization for dispensing drugs in the elderly low-cost drug program. Beginning January 1, 2001, it would require manufacturers and labelers of drugs that participate in the Medicaid program to participate in the drug rebate program in the elderly low-cost drug program.
6. If the Commissioner of Human Services establishes maximum retail prices for prescription drugs under Title 22, section 2693, the amendment would direct the commissioner to require prior authorization for the dispensing of drugs in the Medicaid program that would apply to drugs that are priced above the established maximum retail prices. It would direct the department to require prior authorization for the dispensing of drugs in the Medicaid program that are provided from manufacturers and labelers who do not enter into rebate agreements with the State under the Maine Rx Program.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 786 does the following:

1. Part A enacts a new chapter on prescription drug access. Enacted in this chapter are the following elements:
 - A. Subchapter I contains the Maine Rx Program to reduce prescription drug prices for residents of the State. The program utilizes manufacturer rebates and pharmacy discounts to reduce prescription drug prices. The State will serve as a pharmacy benefit manager in negotiating rebates and discounts on behalf of qualified residents. The program depends on manufacturers and labelers of prescription drugs to pay rebates to the State that are used to provide discounted prices to qualifying Maine residents when they purchase prescription drugs. The Department of Human Services is directed to release the names of manufacturers and labelers that do not participate in the Maine Rx Program.
 - B. It establishes the Maine Rx Dedicated Fund to receive revenue due to the program, to make payments to retail pharmacies as required by the program and to pay for contracted services, administrative costs and other program costs.
 - C. It authorizes the Department of Human Services to coordinate the Maine Rx Program with other medical and pharmaceutical assistance programs.
 - D. Subchapter II contains the Prescription Drug Price Reduction Act. This subchapter establishes the Prescription Drug Advisory Commission, a 12-member commission that advises the Commissioner of Human Services regarding access to prescription drugs and prescription drug prices. The

commission advises the commissioner on major substantive rules regarding the procedures to be used in setting and reviewing maximum retail prices for prescription drugs. The commission is required to provide annual reports to the Commissioner of Human Services, the Governor and the Legislature by April 1, 2001 and by the 2nd week in January each subsequent year.

- E. The Commissioner of Human Services is required by January 5, 2003 to undertake a process to determine the need for maximum retail prices for prescription drugs. If the process results in a requirement that maximum retail prices be established, those prices must take effect by July 1, 2003. An appeal mechanism is provided and also a mechanism for addressing situations that may threaten or endanger the public health or welfare. A violation of the maximum retail prices is an unfair trade practice.
 - F. Subchapter III contains a prohibition on profiteering in prescription drugs by manufacturers, their affiliates and subsidiaries, distributors and labelers of prescription drugs. Profiteering may be punished as a civil violation and may result in an award of triple damages, attorney's fees, punitive damages and costs. A violation of the subchapter is a violation of the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act.
- 2. It authorizes the State to negotiate and enter into purchasing alliances and regional strategies with governments and public and private entities for the purpose of reducing prescription drug prices for residents of the State.
 - 3. It provides statements of findings, intent and purpose.
 - 4. It provides appropriations and allocations to fund the provisions of the law.
 - 5. If the Commissioner of Human Services establishes maximum retail prices for prescription drugs, the law directs the commissioner to establish a drug formulary and prior authorization for dispensing drugs in the Elderly Low-cost Drug Program. Beginning January 1, 2001, it requires manufacturers and labelers of drugs that participate in the Medicaid program to participate in the drug rebate program in the Elderly Low-cost Drug Program.
 - 6. If the Commissioner of Human Services establishes maximum retail prices for prescription drugs, the law directs the commissioner to require prior authorization for the dispensing of drugs in the Medicaid program that would apply to drugs that are priced above the established maximum retail prices. It directs the department to require prior authorization for the dispensing of drugs in the Medicaid program that are provided from manufacturers and labelers who do not enter into rebate agreements with the State under the Maine Rx Program.

LD 2606

An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Foster Parents

**PUBLIC 675
EMERGENCY**

Sponsor(s)
COTE
PARADIS

Committee Report
OTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 2606 proposed to remove the repealer on the section of law allowing foster parents, preadoptive parents or relatives providing care for a child to attend a review or hearing that is held with respect to the child.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 675 removes the repealer on the section of law allowing foster parents, preadoptive parents or relatives providing care for a child to attend a review or hearing that is held with respect to the child.

Public Law 1999, chapter 675 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 12, 2000.

LD 2623 An Act to Clarify Terms of Appointment to the Advisory PUBLIC 628
Committee on Family Development Accounts

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KONTOS	OTP	

LD 2623 proposed to clarify the terms for which members are appointed to the Advisory Committee on Family Development Accounts and includes provisions for vacancies and absences.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 628 clarifies the terms for which members are appointed to the Advisory Committee on Family Development Accounts and includes provisions for vacancies and absences.

LD 2644 An Act Relating to Eligibility for the Elderly Low-cost Drug PUBLIC 707
Program

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM	H-1088

Prior to changes to the elderly low-cost drug program enacted in Public Law 1999, chapter 401, Part KKK, eligibility for the program extended to all members of a household if any household member was determined to be eligible. The changes enacted in Public Law 1999, chapter 401, Part KKK, inadvertently caused some household members to lose eligibility. LD 2644 proposed to restore household eligibility as it applied before the 1999 changes.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1088) proposed to replace the bill. Current law provides that a person who was eligible for the elderly low-cost drug program under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 254 at any time from August 1, 1998 to July 31, 1999 retains eligibility until February 28, 2001 if that person is a member of a household of an eligible person. This amendment would continue such eligibility beyond February 28, 2001. The amendment proposed to clarify that those persons who receive Medicaid benefits who are ineligible for the elderly low-cost drug program are those who receive Medicaid pharmaceutical benefits.

Enacted law summary

Current law provides that a person who was eligible for the elderly low-cost drug program under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 254 at any time from August 1, 1998 to July 31, 1999 retains eligibility until February 28, 2001 if that person is a member of a household of an eligible person. Public Law 1999, chapter 707 continues such eligibility beyond February 28, 2001 and clarifies that those persons who receive Medicaid benefits who are ineligible for the elderly low-cost drug program are those who receive Medicaid pharmaceutical benefits.

LD 2654

An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Board of Licensure of Water Treatment Plant Operators

PUBLIC 688

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

LD 2654 proposed to amend the laws regarding the Board of Licensure of Water Treatment Plant Operators. It proposed to do the following:

1. It proposed to modify the definition of "operator" to coincide with the federal definition;
2. It proposed to clarify the classification requirements to apply to all community public water systems and all noncommunity nontransient water systems;
3. It proposed to increase the membership on the Board of Licensure of Water Treatment Plant Operators from 7 to 9, in order to provide representation to the new classes of supply that are required to have licensed operators;
4. It proposed to authorize the board to suspend or revoke a license of a certified operator;
5. It proposed to repeal the provision that grandfathered operators who operated between October 1, 1966 and October 1, 1969; and
6. It proposed to repeal the provision that authorized a 13-month waiver provision to allow an applicant time to pass an annual exam.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 688 amends the laws regarding the Board of Licensure of Water Treatment Plant Operators. It does the following:

1. Modifies the definition of "operator" to coincide with the federal definition;
2. Clarifies the classification requirements to apply to all community public water systems and all noncommunity nontransient water systems;

3. Increases the membership on the Board of Licensure of Water Treatment Plant Operators from 7 to 9, in order to provide representation to the new classes of supply that are required to have licensed operators;
4. Authorizes the board to suspend or revoke a license of a certified operator;
5. Repeals the provision that grandfathered operators who operated between October 1, 1966 and October 1, 1969; and
6. Repeals the provision that authorized a 13-month waiver provision to allow an applicant time to pass an annual exam.

LD 2658

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 1: Rights of Recipients of Mental Health Services Who are Children in Need of Treatment, Section A-VII, Rights to Due Process With Regard to Grievances and Section A-IX, Confidentiality of and Access to Mental Health Records, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services

**RESOLVE 117
EMERGENCY**

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report
OTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 2658 proposed to provide for legislative review of Chapter 1: Rights of Recipients of Mental Health Services Who are Children in Need of Treatment, Section A-VII, Rights to Due Process With Regard to Grievances and Section A-IX, Confidentiality of and Access to Mental Health Records, a major substantive rule of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1999, chapter 117 provides for legislative review of Chapter 1: Rights of Recipients of Mental Health Services Who are Children in Need of Treatment, Section A-VII, Rights to Due Process With Regard to Grievances and Section A-IX, Confidentiality of and Access to Mental Health Records, a major substantive rule of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services. This resolve approves the adoption of the proposed rule.

Resolve 1999, chapter 117 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective April 14, 2000.

LD 2659

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Sections 61, 62, 63, 68 and 73 of 10-49, Chapter 5, Bureau of Elder and Adult Services Policy Manual, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Human Services

**RESOLVE 118
EMERGENCY**

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
H-1099

LD 2659 proposed to provide for legislative review of portions of Sections 61, 62, 63, 68 and 73 of 10-49, Chapter 5, Bureau of Elder and Adult Services Policy Manual, a major substantive rule of the Department of Human Services.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1099) proposed to amend the resolve by providing that the rules for adult day services, Alzheimer's respite, congregate housing services, the homemaker program, home-based care for elders and adults with disabilities and consumer-directed home-based care programs require that consumers who may qualify for a waiver be informed of the right to apply for a waiver. The amendment also proposed to provide that the rules for in-home and community support services and personal care assistance for severely physically disabled adults refer to determination of the dependent allowance in agreement with the method used in the Medicaid program. The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1999, chapter 118 provides for legislative review of portions of Sections 61, 62, 63, 68 and 73 of 10-49, Chapter 5, Bureau of Elder and Adult Services Policy Manual, a major substantive rule of the Department of Human Services. It requires that the rules for adult day services, Alzheimer's respite, congregate housing services, the homemaker program, home-based care for elders and adults with disabilities and consumer-directed home-based care programs require that consumers who may qualify for a waiver be informed of the right to apply for a waiver. It also provides that the rules for in-home and community support services and personal care assistance for severely physically disabled adults refer to determination of the dependent allowance in agreement with the method used in the Medicaid program.

Resolve 1999, chapter 118 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective April 14, 2000.

LD 2681

An Act to Require Rules on Temporary Campgrounds to be Major Substantive Rules

PUBLIC 727

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

LD 2681 proposed to provide that rules adopted by the Department of Human Services regulating tent and recreational vehicle parks, agricultural fair camping facilities, temporary campgrounds and wilderness recreational parks are major substantive rules beginning March 1, 2001. This provision proposed to repeal March 1, 2004.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 727 provides that rules adopted by the Department of Human Services regulating tent and recreational vehicle parks, agricultural fair camping facilities, temporary campgrounds and wilderness recreational parks are major substantive rules beginning March 1, 2001. The law contains a future repeal date of March 1, 2004.

HP 1955

**JOINT ORDER – Relative to the Joint Select Committee on the
Psychiatric Treatment Initiative**

PASSED

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

Joint Order HP 1955 proposed to establish the Joint Select Committee on the Psychiatric Treatment Initiative.

Enacted law summary

Joint Order HP 1955, as passed in both the House and Senate, establishes the Joint Select Committee on the Psychiatric Treatment Initiative, an 8-member committee authorized to meet up to 4 times between September 1, 2000 and November 1, 2000. The committee's duties include overseeing the efforts of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to address the recommendations for action regarding the delivery of mental health services in the community outlined in the report "Maine Treatment Initiative: Civil and Forensic." The committee is also charged with working with community providers and reporting by November 1, 2000 on actions taken by the department to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services.

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